

PROTECTING MARYLAND AGAINST SEXUAL PREDATORS



1. **Legislate Lifetime Supervision:** As proposed by Attorney General Joe Curran – and implemented in 14 other states – Maryland should have lifetime supervision for child sex offenders, sexually violent predators and sexually violent offenders who continue to pose a threat.

The current honor system, by which we ask violent criminals to let their local sheriff's office know where they live, doesn't protect citizens. Experts estimate that nearly one-quarter of the addresses on sex offender registries are inaccurate, because they are self-reported by offenders. Maryland should ensure that there are enough specially trained parole and probation officers supervising sex offenders to keep our neighborhoods safe.

2. **Implement GPS Tracking:** Baltimore uses Global Positioning System (GPS) technology to track city vehicles. And starting next month, the State of Florida will use GPS technology to track sex offenders. Maryland should be next to use this technology to protect our children. Since child sex offenders cannot be rehabilitated, they should wear GPS bracelets for life. The authorities can and should know if child sex offenders are visiting schools, playgrounds or other areas frequented by children.
3. **Make Failure To Register a Felony:** It should be a felony, not a misdemeanor, for a sex offender to fail to register an accurate address when required. We must give prosecutors every tool possible to protect our families, and we must make criminals think twice about not registering. The threat of longer jail time will increase compliance by sex offenders.
4. **Improve Public Notice:** Parents shouldn't be expected to surf the Internet, every day, checking to see if a sex offender has moved into their neighborhood. Attorney General Curran has called for notifying community groups and holding neighborhood meetings, as a start.

As Maryland improves its sex offender registry through better supervision, that information should be made more useful for parents. Citizens should be able type in their address, neighborhood or school and find out whether registered sex offenders live nearby.

5. **Enhance Information Sharing:** All levels of government should work together to make better use of the information that is already collected – such drivers licenses, court records, Medicaid and other benefits, and tax bills – to identify a sex offender's most recent address. If one part of government has the right information, parents should have it, too.
6. **Bring CitiStat Accountability To Tracking Sex Offenders:** 4,300 is not too many people to track. As Maryland institutes lifetime supervision and GPS tracking, it will no longer have to rely on violent sex offenders to provide information about their activities. Parole and probation agents will know whether offenders are living up to the terms of their release. Through CitiStat, the City of Baltimore tracks thousands of potholes and other service requests each month. Maryland should make the effort needed to track a few thousand very dangerous people, because the stakes are much higher.